
Subject: Breastfeeding Equipment

Effective Date: October 1, 2007

Revised from: October 1, 2006

Policy: Breast pumps have been demonstrated to help breastfeeding mothers sustain breastfeeding for a longer duration. Local WIC agencies (LA) must consider several factors before incorporating distribution of breast pumps into program operations. These factors include:

- how providing pumps fits within the scope of breastfeeding promotion and support activities;
- staff resources including time and skills;
- breastfeeding referral sources within the community.

Breast pumps are not a universal need of breastfeeding mothers. Most women, in normal circumstances, can establish and maintain lactation without using a breast pump. For some women, hand expression meets the need to maintain comfort or express milk for later feeding. Contact the State Agency (SA) for training information and a video on hand expression.

For other women, using a pump helps maintain comfort and/or extends breastfeeding duration. For a subset of women, a pump is necessary to establish lactation or maintain lactation during extended periods of separation between a mother and her baby.

Equipment is available to help breastfeeding participants with specific breastfeeding management problems. Equipment includes:

- Manual breast pumps;
- Electric breast pumps;
- Collection kits.

The purchase of manual breast pumps, electric breast pumps and collection kits are allowable with WIC funds. The purchase may be made with either WIC food funds or local agency grant funds (Nutrition Services Administration [NSA] funds). It is preferable that pumps be purchased with WIC food funds. Contact the State Breastfeeding Coordinator before making **any** pump purchases.

Procedure:

1. The LA breastfeeding coordinator or designee is responsible for ordering and maintaining breastfeeding equipment and may delegate responsibilities as needed.
 - a. Call the SA Breastfeeding Coordinator to request permission to order.
 - b. The SA Breastfeeding Coordinator will determine if breast pump purchases will be reimbursed using food funds or NSA funds.

Subject: Breastfeeding Equipment

- c. Purchase approved manual or electric breast pumps and/or collection kits following equipment selection guidelines in Appendix 8, Guide to Purchasing Equipment in the PPM.
 - For reimbursement with WIC food funds, complete the Breast Pump Request for Reimbursement Form (see the Forms section in the PPM.) Attach copies of the paid invoices and shipping costs and submit to the SA Breastfeeding Coordinator. Do not put a reimbursement request using food funds on your affidavit.
 - For payment with NSA funds, submit the expenditure on the WIC affidavit.
2. Breast pumps and/or collection kits are not to be stockpiled. Only order the amount estimated to be used for a maximum of six months.
 - An exception to this guideline might be a small LA which would estimate using less than a full case of breast pumps during a six month period.
 - A full case should be ordered to benefit from a reduced unit cost.
 - Small LA or subagencies should consider making purchases with adjacent LA or subagencies to be able to obtain a lower price. Only one LA may submit the reimbursement request.
3. All staff who issue pumps and clients who receive pumps must be instructed on hand expression and the proper use, assembly, and cleaning of breastfeeding equipment.
4. For distribution of breast pumps see policies NED: 05.04.01 Manual Pumps and NED:05.04.02 Electric Pumps.